

Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness!

This September, Mark Roskam, OHM Chaplain and manager of Wheel Deals Bicycle Shop, will be embarking on a 2,300+ mile bicycle ride along historical Route 66 accompanied by his brother, Mike. They will be making this exciting and arduous journey to raise money for Open House Ministries. *Stay tuned for more information!*



Tours and Talks

Individual and group tours are available to anyone interested in learning about Open House Ministries. We are a Christ-centered, life restoring, family shelter ministry. Please contact Leslie Cook at (360) 737-0300 or email leslie.cook@sheltered.org to schedule your tour.



*A heartfelt
Thank You
to our sponsors, guests and volunteers
for your contributions, making our
luncheon a tremendous success!*



A CONVENIENT WAY TO SUPPORT OPEN HOUSE MINISTRIES

Many of our Open House Friends take advantage of our automatic-donation option—a way to simplify your giving to Open House Ministries either by credit card or automatic bank withdrawal. It's easy to set up. Just go to our website, www.sheltered.org and click Donations; or call us and we can walk you through the necessary steps. Recurring gifts are very helpful, allowing us to make more strategic plans for providing homeless families with shelter, intervention and Christ-based, lifesaving programs. Your reliable monthly support as a Friend of Open House helps to create a steady stream of income, enabling us to create a solid foundation of support for this ministry and reduce fundraising costs. It also helps us plan ahead and utilize our resources more effectively.

~ Ross Merritt, Donor Relations Volunteer

SHELTER NEEDS:

Landscape yard tools, copy paper, backpack leaf blower, size 4 & 5 diapers, baby food, baby formula, Kleenex, day bus passes, quart and gallon size zippered baggies.



Please consider Open House Ministries in your will or trust.



**OPEN HOUSE
MINISTRIES**

www.sheltered.org

P.O. Box 242
Vancouver, WA 98666
(360) 737-0300

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Connections

June, 2019



John's Story

For many years, John had a wonderful, full life. He had a loving wife, three beautiful children, nice home, reliable cars and a very good job as a plant foreman for 17 years.

Quickly, the Washougal resident's life spun out of control.

"I started hanging around the bars with the wrong crowd after work. Drinking turned into doing hard drugs and partying which eventually led down a path of destruction," says John.

John's lost everything. His wife and his two teenage girls left him. Then, he was fired. John began living in a trailer.

"I really didn't care if I lived or died. I was using drugs all the time and they became the only thing important to me. I was so alone, heartbroken and hopeless," added John.

John received a blessed and unexpected surprise—the birth of a son—but the child was taken into CPS custody at four months of age, which broke John's heart.

"When my son arrived, I saw a glimmer of hope and happiness. During my first visit with him, I just held him and kissed him, and promised to bring him home," says John.

Right then and there, John knew he had to change his ways. His adult daughter offered a safe, drug-free place to stay while he fully committed to his recovery by attending treatment meetings, counseling and church parenting classes.



"I have a new-found relationship with God. I am now able to be present when my family needs me and that is priceless," ~ John

"My daughter told me about Open House and I thought it would be a great place for me and my son. I waited one year for a spot to open up, and it has been one of the best things to ever happen to me," he asserted.

Thanks to Open House programs and staff, John learned to pay off old debt, opened a bank account, saved money and became a law-abiding citizen. He even recon-

ciled with his oldest daughter and her family, and got to meet his young granddaughter.

"I have a new found relationship with God. I am now able to be present when my family needs me and, that is priceless," says John.

After successfully completing the program, John now works at Open House full time and his son lives with him.



(Continued on page 2)



Loving Witnesses

Chaplain's Corner - June, 2019

In the early 1980's, I worked at Bethesda Hospital in Denver as a team member on a 30-bed psychiatric unit. I witnessed the crucial interactions of so many people in that Community, and still today recount how deeply we impacted one another. A myriad of memories flow of simple conversations which offered witness to Life in an unexpected and forgotten place.

"You shall be my witnesses, in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). These geographic locales represent concentric circles of influence in the lives of followers of Jesus—quite literally from nearby to faraway—even today. Our *Jerusalem* may be in our home, our family and our neighborhoods. *Judea* might well be our community, county and region. But *Samaria* was and is a tough assignment—literally going to a place that was off-limits to the devout: a place of alleged degradation, immorality and wayward religion.

The word, *witnesses*, speaks of one who announces Good News, by one who has been changed by Jesus. Once upon a time, the followers of Jesus were thunderstruck that He would hang out with a woman with questionable credentials at a well in Samaria (John 4:1ff). Amazingly, the apostle John had actually asked Jesus for

permission to call down fire from heaven on a village in Samaria (Luke 9:51ff). Yet it was John who was a first-hand witness of the quantum changes in the Samaritans (Acts 8:14ff). Hmmm...

We are also witnesses. The world is shrinking in size via advances in technology, and the clarion call remains to reflect Jesus in our *concentric circles of influence* today. Though it is easy to love the lovable people of our inner circle of family and friends, perhaps there are *strained and dormant relationships to which you are to be a witness*. Though it still is tough to love unlovable, even nameless and faceless others, the burden is still on us—the witnesses—to take the first step.

Together with you, we are witnesses to the miracles and quantum life changes of Open House Ministries. Thanks for working shoulder-to-shoulder with us, as together we touch families who we would never have met - *but for GOD!* These are families whose life journeys are being written today and these remarkable stories will be told again - *someday!*

With Love and Fond Affection,
Mark Roskam, Chaplain



John's Story (Continued from page 1)

"I truly believe that God had a plan all along when he gave me a son. My son gave me a reason to keep going—someone worth living for until I found out how to love myself too," says John.

He adds, "Open House Ministries helped me rebuild my life completely and I am forever grateful. I give the staff a big thank you for taking a chance on me and believing in me."



New Mentoring Program Launched at Open House

During a recent visit with Jodie Baxter, Case Manager at Open House, she was searching the bulletin board next to her desk for a couple of feedback comments among dozens of photos, cards, and letters about success stories she's been involved with. She found two notes written by recent young graduates of a new program which was launched at Open House in the fall of 2018. Each one echoed a similar sentiment... gratitude for the caring, personal connection with a mentor the program provided them.

This new resource is called "Teach One to Lead One" (T1L1) which is a community mentoring program that teaches Universal (Biblical) Principles to lead participants into lives of purpose and potential. As Jodie explained, "At Open House we have a heart and passion for



kids but have precious little time to speak life and truth through Jesus before they've moved on. Our goal is to empower all program participants to learn the vital role that Christ plays in their lives by helping them to realize their callings and potential."



Through four trained staff mentors, T1L1 uses a range of activities and exercises to impart the 10 core principles of Respect, Integrity, Self-Control, Compassion, Courage, Teamwork, Excellence, Humility, Enthusiasm, and Honor. The first session included six students from 5th through 12th grade and six parents. All twelve successfully completed the 12 week course which is tentatively scheduled to be held twice per year. The program can be modified to include other age groups depending upon the needs of the residents at any given time.

T1L1 is yet another tool in the Open House toolbox to equip those we serve with the skills and knowledge to pursue full, productive lives through the power of the Lord.

What's Cooking?

In March, Life Group "*Rooted*," from Vancouver Church, hosted an amazing crock pot cooking class for 39 Open House residents. Joyce Madriz and six other members from "*Rooted*" prepared a variety of crock pot dishes for sampling as well as shared the delicious recipes and various crock pot cooking tips.

At the end of class, each family received a new crock pot, two crock pot cookbooks and all the ingredients to make meatloaf in their very own crock pots!

